

## November 11, 2020

The Cumberland County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections Office for a 9:00AM Absentee Meeting.

**Present:** Floyd Johnson, Chairman  
Irene Grimes, Member  
Helen Nelson, Member

Linda Devore, Secretary  
Bobby Swilley, Member  
Terri Robertson, Director

**Staff:** Vickie Hilburn

**Guests:** Live-feed available for members of the public.

Chairman Floyd Johnson called the meeting to Order at 9:00AM, and presented the Agenda.

**ACTION:** Member Swilley moved to approve the agenda as presented.  
Seconded and approved unanimously.

Director Robertson presented several Absentee Ballot envelopes with issues for Board Members to consider.

A Military Absentee Ballot envelope received without a postmark, and a voter attestation date on the envelope dated November 4.

A Civilian Absentee Ballot envelope with a November 4 postmark and a November 3 USPS postage label. An inquiry submitted to USPS through the State Board indicates that the postage was most likely purchased through a USPS self-service kiosk, and deposited for delivery after 5:00 on November 3. Kiosk postage date cannot be used to determine mailing date.

A priority mail envelope postmarked November 6.

Three ballots delivered by USPS with no postmark. Tracking list from the state shows they were not accepted into the USPS delivery on or before November 3.

**ACTION:** Member Swilley moved to not accept the six ballots received after November 3 without a postmark or attestation on or before Election Day.  
Seconded and passed unanimously. 5-0

Director Robertson presented a Civilian Absentee Ballot envelope with Cure Affidavit discussed at our previous meeting. Witness and Assistant information appear complete, but the voter signature line is blank. There is a meandering mark on the margin of the envelope near the voter signature line. Board Members discussed whether this could be the voter's mark. The director reported that staff was able to determine that the voter, witness, and assistant are residents of a group living facility in another county, but staff was unable to speak with any of them.

**ACTION:** Member Grimes moved to accept the Civilian Absentee Ballot presented. Seconded and passed 3-2 Swilley and Devore against.

Director Robertson reported that one voter who received a letter and a new Absentee Ballot has executed and returned the new ballot, but also voted in person. This is likely the result of voter confusion with the cure process, and uncertainty by the voter. The in-person ballot was tabulated. The Absentee Ballot is not presented for approval.

Director Robertson presented one Civilian Absentee Ballot envelope received from the postal service partially mangled and torn open by the USPS sorting equipment. The witness area is missing, but the envelope is signed by the voter, and the ballot is mostly intact.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to accept the damaged Civilian Absentee Ballot envelope. Seconded and passed unanimously. 5-0

Director Robertson presented 16 Civilian Absentee Ballot envelopes without cure Affidavits postmarked by November 3 for approval without irregularities.

**ACTION:** Member Grimes moved to accept the 16 Civilian Absentee Ballot envelopes without Cure Affidavits postmarked on or before November 3. Seconded and passed unanimously. 5-0

Director Robertson presented 40 Civilian Absentee Ballot envelopes with Witness Cure Affidavits Postmarked by November 3. Board Members reviewed each envelope and affidavit.

Secretary Devore expressed concern with four ballot envelopes and attached Cure Affidavits where it appears the voter signature on the envelope and the voter signature on the Cure Affidavit are not by the same person. Board Members discussed Numbered Memo 2020-19 and the state board guidance that board members do not have the authority to verify voter signatures. Devore stated that the memo refers to signatures on file, but does not appear to prohibit comparison of voter signatures presented by the ballot envelope and cure affidavit before the Board.

**ACTION:** Member Nelson moved to accept the 40 Civilian Absentee Ballot envelopes with Witness Cure Affidavits postmarked on or before November 3. Seconded and passed 3-2. Devore and Swilley against.

Director Robertson presented 4 Military Absentee Ballots envelopes and 1 Overseas Ballot envelope postmarked on or before November 3, and received without irregularities

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to accept the 4 Military and 1 Overseas Ballot envelopes. Seconded and passed 5-0.

Director Robertson reported that the tabulator reads zero ballots.

Accepted Ballot envelopes were opened, duplicated as needed, and placed in the tabulator.

Total ballots approved today: 61

Tabulator reading: 61

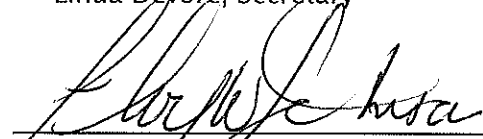
Cumulative Total Mail-in Absentee Ballots Approved: 23,659


Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM at the Board of Elections office.

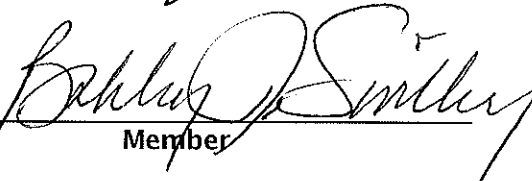
ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20AM.

Submitted by,

  
Linda Devore, Secretary

  
Chairman

  
Member

  
Member

  
Member

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Director